

The following citation was read at a Special Convocation  
of the Benchers of The Law Society of Upper Canada  
on the 23rd day of January, 2015.

Treasurer, may I present to you and Convocation,  
The Honourable Karen M. Weiler, and request that you  
confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.  
She was called to the Bar in 1969, when law was still  
considered a non-traditional career choice for women. A  
real trailblazer never daunted by the challenges facing  
her, she joined Weiler, Weiler and Maloney in Thunder  
Bay and discovered she was the only woman practising  
law in Northwestern Ontario. After obtaining her LL.M.,  
she served as senior policy counsel under The Honourable  
R. Roy McMurtry, the Attorney General. Her work led to a  
massive overhaul of family law in Ontario with the enactment  
of the Family Law Reform Act, the Children's Law  
Reform Act and the Succession Law Reform Act.

In 1980, at the age of 35, Justice Weiler was appointed to  
the former District Court. She is the youngest person ever  
to be appointed to the federal judiciary. Appointments to  
the High Court in 1989, and the Ontario Court of Appeal  
in 1992, soon followed. Through her desire to advance access  
to justice, Justice Weiler worked with Pro Bono Law  
Ontario to launch a volunteer program to assist  
unrepresented litigants. As well, she has worked with  
community organizations to educate children on racism  
and discrimination to foster equality in today's society.

The Honourable Karen M. Weiler is deserving of the highest  
honour this Society can bestow and I ask you to confer  
upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.